limit allowed by the prudential lending norms;

(b) if so, the names of the PSUs whose exposure limit is higher and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether RBI has given any instructions to SBI to slash its exposure limit with immediate effect to these PSUs; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) have reported that their exposure to three public sector undertakings is in excess of the prudential norms. According to SBI the basic reason for the exposure norm being exceeded is the historical sole banking relationship of the PSU's with the bank. The other significant factor is the unique position of the SBI which offers a large network of branches affording collection/ remittance facilities to these PSUs. The names of the parties (PSUs) cannot be disclosed on account of laws relating to secretary in banking.

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised SBI to bring down the exposure to these PSUs to permitted levels through suitable arrangements of consortium lending and other measures.

**Trade Missions**

3189. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Trade Missions visited India during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed and the outcomes thereon for promotion and strengthening economic cooperation and trade, country-wise;

(c) the details of the Trade Agreements/protocol signed and implications thereof, country-wise; and

(d) the similar details in respect of high level Indian Trade delegations visited abroad and the outcomes thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) to (d) A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT

| Name of the Country | Country-wise details and Agreement signed (Incoming) |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| 1. Canada | High level Trade delegation headed by the Canadian Prime Minister visited India in January, 1996. |
| 2. Brazil | President of Brazil visited India in January, 199[illegible] and a Joint declaration on setting up of Indo-Brazillian commercial council was signed. |
| 3. Cuba | Trade Delegation headed by Deputy Minister for Foreign Investment and Economic Cooperation visited India in November, 1996 and meeting of the Indo-Cuban Trade Revival Committee was held during his visit. |
| 4. Trinidad and Tobago | High level business delegation headed by Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago visited India during January, 1997. Trade Agreement between Trinidad and Tobago was signed. |
| 5. USA | A business delegation headed by Governor of Ohio and Iowa State in USA visited India in November, 1996. |
| | United States Deputy Trade representative visited India during October, 96 to hold discussions on patent regime and India's obligation under agreement on trade related intellectual property rights. |
| | United States's Deputy Assistant Trade representative for Asia Pacific and APEC visited India during March, 97. |
| 6. Russia | Russian delegation led by Deputy Health Minister of Russian federation visited India during April, 1996 in connection with the working group on pharmaceuticals. |
| 7. Slovak Republic | The State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on C.M. on 8.3.96 and discussed Trade between the two countries. |
| | Second session of Indo-Slovak Joint Commission was held during Dec., 96. A protocol was signed on Trade and Economic Cooperation. |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| 8. Czech Republic | Deputy-Minister of Industries and trade visited India to attend the 2nd session of the Indo-Czech Joint Committee during Feb., 97. A protocol was signed. |
| 9. Croatia | A delegation visited India during October, 96 to attend the Indo-Croatian Joint Committee on bilateral trade and a protcol was signed. |
| 10. Poland | Deputy Minister of foreign Relations visited Indian during Nov., 96 to exchange views on future plans for boosting trade. |
| 11. Bulgaria | A delegation visited India during Dec., 96 for the meeting of the working group on Trade. An agreement was signed on Trade and Economic Cooperation on Dec., 4, 96. |
| 12. Federal Republic of Yugoslavia | Federal Minister of Trade visited India during Dec., 96 and exchanged views and future plans to boost trade. |
| 13. Slovenia | The State Secretary of Foreign Economic Relations visited India to attend 2nd session of Indo-Slovenian Joint committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation during Feb., 1997. A protocol was signed. |
| 14. Romania | Secretary of State in the Ministry of Industry and Commerce visited India during Feb., 97. A protocol was signed. |
| 15. Greece | A delegation visited India to attend Indo-Greek Joint Economic Committee during Oct., 1996. |
| 16. Cyprus | A delegation visited India to attend Indo-Cypriot Joint Commission Committee during Nov., 96. |
| 17. Switzerland | Swiss delegation visited India during Dec., 96 to attend Indo-Swiss Joint Commission meeting. |
| 18. Italy | Italian delegation visited India during Dec., 96 to attend Indo-Italian Joint Commission Meeting. |
| 19. Jordan | Jordan's Minister of Supply visited India during Nov. 96 to promote bilateral trade. |
| 20. Vietnam | The Prime Minister and Trade Minister of Vietnam visited India during March, 97. An agreement on Economic cooperation was signed. |
| 21. South Africa | Deputy President of South Africa visited India in Dec., 96 along with Minister of Trade and Industries and Members of Business community. |
| 22. Ethiopia | Prime Minister of Ethiopia visited India during March, 97. A trade agreement was signed. |

| Name of the Country | Country-wise details and Agreement signed (Outgoing) |
|---|---|
| 1. Bahrain | Commerce Minister went to address NRI conference from 1st to 2nd Nov., 96. (Commerce Minister). |
| 2. Dubai | Commerce Minister went to inaugurate "Expo India- 1996" from 6th to 7th Dec. (Commerce Minister). |
| 3. China | Commerce Minister led the High powered Chief Excecutive Officers Mission sponsored by Confederation of India Industry (15th Sept to 19th Sept). (Commerce Minister). |
| 4. Hongkong | Commerce Minister addressed the gathering of the Indian Chambers of Commerce (20th Nov., 96). (Commerce Minister). |
| 5. Brussels | Commerce Minister went to attend the Indo-EU investment and Trade Cooperation |

| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
| | Forum on 25-26 November, 1996. Economic Cross-cultural Agreement between India and European Commission was signed. (Commerce Minister) |
| | Indo-EC sub-commission meeting was held during Dec., 96 including WTO matters GSP etc. (Commerce Minister). |
| 6. Finland | Commerce Minister has attended the Indo-Finish Joint Commission meeting was held during Oct., 96. Bilateral Economic matter were discussed. |
| 7. Geneva | Commerce Minister went to participate in the High Level Segment of the 43rd Session of the UNCTAD Trade and Development Board on foreign direct investment on 10th October, 96. (Commerce Minister). |
| 8. Brazil | Commerce Minister went for inaugurating the exclusive Indian Exhibition in Sau Paulo (3-7 Nov., 96) (Commerce Minister). |
| 9. USA | Commerce Minister attended the Meeting of Indo-US Commercial Alliance (15-18 Oct., 1996) for taking a meeting of the representatives of the PSUs/Boards of the Ministry of Commerce on 8th Nov., 1996. (Commerce Minister). |
| 10. Singapore | First Ministerial Conference of World Trade Organisation. (9-13 Dec., 96). Commerce Minister attended (Commerce Minister). |
| 11. Kazakhstan | Commerce Minister went to inagurate the exhibition organised by ITPO 8th to 13th October, 1996. (Commerce Minister). |
| 12. Bulgaria | Agreement signed on Trade and Economic co-operation with Bulgaria at New Delhi on 4.12.96. |
| 13. Kenya | Commerce Minister went for attending Made in India Show arranged by Confederation of Indian Industries at Nairobi from 14th to 16th August, 1996. (Commerce Minister). |
| 14. Ivory Coast | Commerce Secretary visited Abidjan for attending the 1st meeting of Indo-Ivorian joint trade committee during Feb., 97. |
| 15. Russia | The 3rd session of Indo-Russian working group on trade and economic cooperation was held to discuss bilateral relations during January, 97. |
| 16. Azerbaijan | A joint business delegation of Ficci and Indo-CIS chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Azerbaijan during Dec., 96. An MOU for establishing joint business council was signed. |
| 17. Romania | A delegation comprising of Govt. Officials and business men led by Joint Secretary. Minstry of Commerce visited Romania for attending intersession consultations during August, 96. |
| 18. Poland | Commerce Secretary visited during September, 96 for exploring and laying down necessary infrastructures in the interest of Indian business man. |
| 19. Jordan | Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce visited Amman during March, 96 to discuss the areas covered under Joint Committee. |
| 20. Iraq | Additional Secretary, Ministry of Commerce visited Iraq to promote the export of Indian Tea and other products under UN "Food for Oil" programme. |
| 21. Japan | Led by Commerce Secretary, to Japan for Indo-Japan Trade Talk in Nov., 96. |
| 22. Mangolia | Led by Vice President, Govt. of India for signing agreement on Economic Cooperation during Sept., 96. |

Economic cooperation with other countries has been the constant endeavour of the Government. In a fast integrating world it is important to establish partnerships with other countries so that India can derive economic advantage in its efforts at maximising exports and developing the economy. Strong links have been established both at the bilateral level with various countries, as well as at the multilateral level and with important groupings like the European Union, ASEAN etc. SAPTA is fast becoming an important instrument for liberalising trade within the SAARC region.

*[English]*

**Rehabilitation of Textile Workers**

3190. Dr. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA;

SHRI GORDHAN BHAI JAVIA

SHRI VIJAY PATEL:

SHRI N.J. RATHWA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government to rehabilitate the textile workers who rendered jobless due to closure;

(b) whether the Government have received any proposal from Gujarat seeking assistance of the NIFT to make suitable arrangements for training the jobless textile workers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) The Textile Policy 1985, inter-alia while holding that there might be no alternative but to close down those textile units which had no expectation of becoming viable in a reasonable period of time, also stressed that, the interests of the labour force, in the event of permanent closure of such units, would be fully safeguarded. Accordingly, the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS) had been formulated. The TWRFS came into force with effect from the 15th September 1986. The objective of the TWRFS is to give an interim relief to the mill workers rendered jobless due to permanent closure of the mills. Relief under the scheme is available only for 3 years on a tapering basis, 75% of the wage equivalent in the first year, 50% in the second year and 25% in the third year.

(b) to (d) A proposal was made by Gandhi Labour Institute Ahmedabad to train a batch of workers in Garment Manufacturing at NIFT centre, Gandhinagar. It was suggested to fund this from National Renewal Fund. The scheme envisaged a course leading to skill formation and capabilities to operate in tiny sector a Readymade Garment unit. The proposal could not be considered as the funding was not available. It was also found that such training would be costly and involve expenditure of more than Rs. 20000/- per trainee.

*[Translation]*

**Retraining of Employees**

3191. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made arrangements for retraining of employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names and location of the States where such arrangements have been made; and

(d) the names of nodal agencies of the State Government which have been included in this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) The National Renewal Fund was set up by the Government in February, 1992, to provide a social safety net for workers affected by industrial restructuring, technology upgradation and modernisation of Indian Industry. It, inter-alia, envisages assistance for counselling, retraining and redeployment of rationalised workers. 13 nodal agencies have been approved for implementing this scheme in 49 locations in 16 states. Details of the nodal agencies and the locations is given as statement. Gandhi Labour Institute, Ahmedabad is the State Government Agency included in this scheme.

STATEMENT

*Employee Assistance Centres (EACs) set up under NRF*

| Sl. No. | Name of the Nodal Agency | Location |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | M.P. Consultancy Organisation, T.T. Nagar, Bhopal. | 1. Napanagar (M.P.)<br>2. Bhopal (M.P.)<br>3. Korba (M.P.) |
| 2. | Institute of Labour Development, Station Road, Jaipur. | 4. Beawar (Raj.)<br>5. Kota (Raj.) |